

in Christ, that there is a responsibility resting upon every one; that every one must give an account; and that the reward will be in accordance with our faith, our love, our devotion, our zeal. How important, then, that all be done that can be done to bring about such a revival, that all may not only feel their responsibility, but that they may so feel it as to move, to impel them to do what they can for the cause of salvation throughout California, in every nook and corner of the state, and in fact, throughout the world.

3. The church in California needs an increased ministerial force. The ministers which the church now has need to be so supported that their whole time may be given to the work. This is necessary to take care of the membership and to afford the proper amount of preaching within our organized limits. There is, perhaps, not one organized church in California that has within its bounds the amount of preaching and ministerial labors that it should have—that the importance of the case demands. This should be changed, if possible, so that every soul within these organized limits will have at least the privilege of hearing and embracing the gospel of Christ in its purity and fullness. If all the ministers we have were to preach every day of their lives, this work would not and could not be overdone. Let it then be remembered that the church in California needs a competent, sufficiently supported, and fully consecrated and devoted ministry.

4. The church in California needs a strong and extensive evangelistic force, to go forth into every part of the state, so that the gospel doctrine may be heard by all. That gospel which should be preached "in all the world" and "to every creature," should certainly be preached throughout California so that all may hear, believe, become children of God and inherit eternal life. The gospel should be so preached that there would be an individual responsibility, so that no one can ever say that the invitation was not extended, that a privilege to become a member of Christ's body and to enjoy salvation through him on the terms of the gospel was never afforded. That we may be justified, we should make a faithful effort to supply this need.

5. That this work and duty of preaching the gospel everywhere and to all classes may be faithfully accomplished throughout the state, we need not only to have a properly qualified and equipped ministerial and evangelistic force, but it would be well to have a sufficient number of movable tabernacles or tents to be used wherever and whenever suitable houses or buildings could not be obtained. All these things will require not only time and effort but money. But granting that the salvation of our souls and

the souls of others is as valuable, as important, as we claim it to be, who would not willingly do and give all that it is possible to give and do for the salvation of precious immortal souls?

Conclusion.—In order that these and other needs of the church may be fully met, it will be necessary to have some time, but we can and should make a determined beginning without delay. Then under God's guidance and blessing, in the name of Jesus our Redeemer and Saviour, and with the directions, leadings and comforts of the Holy Spirit, we should be patient, diligent, and persevering, laboring to the extent of our abilities and opportunities to discharge our duties. If we do our part faithfully, God will provide for the needs of the church in California and throughout the world. So may it be.

A FEW LESSONS FROM PAST MISTAKES

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We have learned from sad experience as well as by careful observation a few lessons that we will briefly give for the benefit of others. Putting men and women newly come to the faith into office before they have been thoroughly proved. We who have done evangelistic work go to some new place have a revival, gather in a lot of new material and then immediately organize them into a permanent organization. Many of the greatest troubles that we have ever had in our brotherhood have grown out of the plain violation of God's word putting novices into office. I could recall and name churches East, West, North and South that have been hampered, some very much injured, and a few almost ruined that, otherwise would be thrifty and a power for good, by human called novices instead of spirit called and proved men. It matters not how talented or how spiritual a man seems to be, he should be thoroughly tested before he be given an office in the church. I have made these mistakes myself and have seen many similar ones made by others. We must always suffer when we disobey God.

Then we should be equally careful to put men into office who have the Bible qualifications. We should especially be careful along spiritual lines. The Word teaches that they should be sanctified, full of wisdom, and of the Holy Ghost, and should be made overseers by the Holy Ghost. Besides these, many other qualifications are laid down in the Word. A covetous, a selfish, a high tempered touch me not, a man who tells vulgar street corner or store box stories, or one whose body is filthy with tobacco or whose eyes are full of adultery should not be elected to any office for the Holy Temple of God.

Another great mistake is putting in-

tellectual qualifications above spiritual. Give me a one talented man intellectually and he will do more for God if he gives the Holy Spirit the right way in his heart than a thousand intellectual giants whose lives and characters are questionable. God forbid that I should say one word against a true education, but if the heart is not educated above or at least up to the intellect then O Lord deliver us from them. Even then if they do not let the Spirit fill the mind and heart with the mind and heart of Jesus, it will all be a failure. Read and study the first three chapters of 1 Cor. and it will forever settle that matter if we believe God. O how much we have rejoiced over intellectual giants when they came to us, inquiring about their intellect instead of their heart, and if we would have taken as much pains to look after their moral record as of their intellect we would have saved ourselves much loss and trouble. This has been my observation and experience. I have never yet rejoiced over a "big fish" but what he proved an "elephant" on our hands. May we all profit by the past. Another great mistake is to give questionable members and even preachers good letters and send them off in order to get shut of them and thus make trouble from church to church.

In hiring preachers above all things be sure as to his moral and spiritual qualifications. Often it would be well to inquire of his grocer, his printer and of the officers of his former church. I could name a number of churches that could have been saved an untold amount of trouble by doing this very thing. We who give men gospel freedom are very likely to be imposed upon and hence should be careful and prayerful. I believe we have as clean a ministry as the average denomination, but as we have been imposed upon there is still more or less danger. If we are ever so careful we are apt to be betrayed.

I am also aware that a congregation may be in the wrong and the pastor in the right, but my observation has taught me that this is the exception and not the rule. Particularly when it refers to a man's character, the church as far as I have observed has been almost if not universally in the right. One other observation and I am through for the present. I have observed churches whose pastors received large numbers of questionable reputation, and I have found sooner or later there will be trouble in the church. They find it full of unconverted men and women. I know a church where a pastor of this kind baptized perhaps a 100 people and in a very few years there after not over a half a dozen that ever attended church and not more than one or two of the number that has proven faithful. The work was not of God and it could not stand. Let us